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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P. A. Billing-Medel., *et al.*

Serial No.: (Not yet assigned)

Filed:

For: REAGENTS AND METHODS  
USEFUL FOR DETECTING  
DISEASES OF THE  
GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

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Wanda E. Smith 12/19/01  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The following amendment accompanies the Divisional Patent Application of U.S. Serial No. 09/049,698. Before beginning an examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please amend the application as indicated below.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, please replace the first paragraph entitled: Cross-Reference to Related Application.

a' This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application, Serial No. 09/049,698, filed March 27, 1998, which is a continuation -in-part of U.S. application Serial No. 08/828,856 filed March 31, 1997, now abandoned, from which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S. C. ¶120 and which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.